Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

AIB 5, 91

TO: Chief, Security Research Staff

DATE: 20 January 1954

FROM: Chief, Technical Branch

SUBJECT: ARTICHOKE Interviews with Contacts

1. On 19 January 1954 between 2:00 and 5:00 PM, [redacted] and the writer talked with four contacts who have been cleared to the Secret level in connection with the ARTICHOKE work. Set out below is a very brief summary of the discussions and the results thereof.

1) [redacted] who was interviewed jointly with [redacted] see below) was extremely co-operative; offered the facilities of the library; and offered to assist in the identification of rare mushrooms if ever necessary. [redacted] so stated he would talk to other specialists at [redacted] and attempt to arrange ways and means to grow mushrooms or prepare mushrooms "unofficially" for possible future use in connection with the ARTICHOKE program. [redacted] stated he felt that there was a great deal of information missing in connection with toxic qualities of the mushroom family and he was well aware of use made by certain Soviet peoples in certain types of mushroom intoxication. [redacted] felt that considerable work could be done in this direction and urged and recommended that research be extended and to include particularly contact with [redacted] already cleared).

2) [redacted] is a close working associate of [redacted] and by profession is both a botanist and mycologist attached to [redacted] as noted above, was interviewed with [redacted] and supported entirely the views of [redacted]. [redacted] personally offered to assist in the identification of mushrooms,

[redacted]

Noted. I never got instructions we've got to go slow on this at present.

collect toxic species and personally research sources available to him for rare and little-known types of mushrooms having toxic qualities of interest to ARTICHOKE.

C 3) [redacted] and is regarded as a top-flight specialist on desert and jungle plants. He is presently stationed [redacted] was highly recommended to us by [redacted] and other specialists in biology and plant collection. [redacted] proved an exceptionally interesting person and in the future will be an undoubtedly useful contact. [redacted] has traveled all over the world collecting plants for [redacted]

[redacted] In [redacted]'s opinion, the ARTICHOKE field has never been properly explored insofar as little-known narcotic plants and shrubs are concerned. [redacted] stated a number of years ago he asked [redacted] for a grant of twenty million dollars to make a study of medicinal plants of all types in the Western Hemisphere. [redacted] stated this enormous request was approved by [redacted] in principal but was turned down when it was discovered that government agencies of necessity would become involved in this work. [redacted] promised that he would immediately write to individuals he knew, without disclosing Agency interest, and set up contacts and request advice in collection of material. [redacted], in addition, requested the clearance of certain individuals who he stated would be of great help in this work and promised when these individuals were cleared he would see to it that the necessary co-operation was forthcoming. Furthermore [redacted] turned over the use of his extremely valuable library containing rare [redacted] and gave to [redacted] a considerable amount of original material along lines of interest to ARTICHOKE.

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C 4) [redacted] According to many sources previously

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[redacted]

contacted, [redacted] who is a specialist in the obtaining of and propagating of certain botanicals, can be of great assistance in the ARTICHOKE work. [redacted] who was seen very late in the day, proved to be very enthusiastic and offered every possible assistance both in collection and growth of botanicals. Since [redacted] was leaving [redacted] the following day, time was very short and he asked [redacted] and the writer to return as soon as arrangements could be made and he could work out certain ideas he had regarding contacts and botanical collections along ARTICHOKE lines. A report will be submitted on subsequent interviews with [redacted]

2. On 20 January 1954, between 9:30 and 11:00 AM [redacted] and the writer talked with [redacted] was one of the individuals whom [redacted] of [redacted], endorsed and recommended in connection with the ARTICHOKE work. [redacted] proved entirely sympathetic and made numerous suggestions and immediately produced information of value in this work. [redacted] very definitely supported the idea of extensive work in the ARTICHOKE field and stated efforts should be made to carry out experimentation on human beings through the use of prison facilities or hospitals, preferably close to Washington where the work could be observed properly. [redacted] stated that some of his work has been carried out in [redacted], and certain experimentation at [redacted] and he thought that [redacted] would be helpful and co-operate in this work. [redacted] stated if funds could be made available, his organization would support and carry out research along the lines of ARTICHOKE which would furnish a perfect natural cover for this work. [redacted] stated he would immediately begin research along these lines and requested [redacted] and the writer to have a conference next week with him and his associates, [redacted] is cleared and this conference will be arranged as soon as possible.) [redacted] requested that certain other individuals be cleared to facilitate this work and stated that he would direct his associates to research along certain lines of interest to us, without disclosing Agency interest.

[redacted]